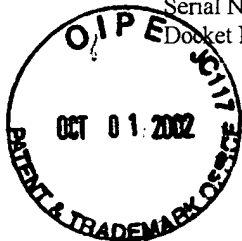


Serial No. 09/553,107
Docket No. GJH-0018



PATENTS
Attorney Docket No. GJH-0018

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Edward S. Ellis, et al.**)

Serial No.: **09/553,107**)

Art Unit: **1764**)

Filed: **April 20, 2000**)

Before the Examiner: **J. Johnson**)

Entitled: **PRODUCTION OF LOW
SULFUR DISTILLATES**)

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

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This is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 25, 2002. Please enter the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following clean version of amended claim 1. A marked-up version is provided at the end of this response.

1. A multi stage process for reducing the level of sulfur and in a distillate feedstock having a sulfur content greater than about 3,000 wppm, which process consists essentially of:

- a) reacting said feedstream in a first hydrodesulfurization stage in the presence of a hydrogen-containing treat gas, a portion of which is cascaded from the second hydrodesulfurization stage of d) below, said first hydrotreating stage containing one or